Division of space by Voronoi graphs, percolation within percolation and application to the models of porous membranes

A thesis submitted to the

University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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15^{th} October, 2003

No portion of the work referred to in this thesis has been submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university, or other institute of learning.

K N Tiyapan

To my father and my mother Niwat and Somjit Tiyapan (*Nivat, Somcitṭa Tiyabandḥa)*,
my chemistry and sword teacher Siddhiponr Songsataya (*Sidhibaur Drongsatya*), and
my dad and mum Allister and Patricia Johnstone.
To Emeritus Professor David John Bell and
Emeritus Professor Graham Arthur Davies,
both of whom had started this project,
one of whom had powered it.
To these people, then, is my dedication of this thesis,
but the thesis may dedicate itself to whomever it wishes.

Abstract

Statistics for Voronoi Tessellations are obtained from numerical simulation. These are, for example, the number of edges, faces, and vertices per cell, and the cell's surface area and volume. Statistics are obtained for the 2-d section of 3-d Voronoi networks and for compressed VT. For networks of from two to ten dimensions are given the number of vertices per cell and the ratio between the volume and the hypercubic volume. The similarity between a percolation curve and an s-curve is discussed. Percolation is applied to the study of traffic congestion. In filtration problems sometimes tiny particles come together to form clusters which block the pores. This is due to the Van der Waals force which acts to pull them together and bind them. It is proposed here that such phenomena may be represented as a percolation within percolation, or more precisely a *continuum* percolation within a *network* percolation. Here channelling occurred in filters causes the concentration of the suspension to fluctuate. Pores whose internal concentration exceeds the continuum percolation threshold become blocked. This blockage may not be wholly random but depend on the quantum-mechanical wavefunction of the particles when their wave-particle duality are taken into account, as described by the de Broglie formula $\lambda = h/p$. These blocked pores then act to percolate the filter as a network percolation problem. Algorithms and programs for doing the simulation and compiling the thesis are given, and so are translation of three seminal papers by Voronoi (1908 and 1909) and another one by Dirichlet (1850).

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Acknowledgements

There are no less than two Emeritus Professor's to whom this present work is indebted. They are David John Bell and Graham Arthur Davies, both of whom I thank for the supervision and also the latter for the maintenance fund throughout the course of the project. I thank Simon Hood and Zaiem Bakker for the help in computing matters, and Stuart Holmes *et al* for suggesting zeolites. I thank Walter Korchinsky for the lab demonstrating jobs, Ted Roberts for the extended computer access and for giving me a visitor's status for a few weeks in September 2003 to conclude my thesis for submission, and Ian Rosindale for extending the computer access for me. These people mentioned, unless stated otherwise, are all titled Dr. I thank the graduate school administrator Muriel Shingler, Rodney Holt at the helpdesk of UMIST's ISD and also Steven Coppersthwaite-Lewis who looks after the computers at the Chemical Engineering Department. I thank Peter Senior who is an excellent teacher, and Professor Ian Metcalfe, both for letting me help with the demonstrations.

For the help with my everyday's work I thank all the staffs at the John Rylands Library at Deansgate, the John Rylands University Library and the Joule Library, especially but not only those at the issuing desks whom I see regularly. For encouragement I thank Carlos Cervantes, Dirk Engelberg, Clara Entwistle and Yann Frouin. For inspiration I thank mathematicians like Descartes, Dirichlet, Euler, and Voronoi.

Many of the ideas and solutions described herein came to me while I was on an excursion away from Manchester. I thank those people who had taken me to those far corners, away from the madding crowd, places as unique and distant from one another as Penzance, Portree, Llandudno, Nagazaki and Nice. These people are in particular the drivers of National Express's coaches, train operators in Europe and Japan, pilots, and also Aoife O'Higgins who organised several trips for us.

I thank Sister Eileen and all the staffs at the St. Gabriel Hall of Residence who have made my stay there during the summer of 2002 a memorable experience. Special thank to Yann Frouin my flatmate at St. Gabriel for his encouraging words in times of turmoils, 'Believe in your ideas moreover they are beautifull'. [sic] I thank Carlos Manuel Cervantes Lara, Daniel Scamman, Ewan of the Spitalfields Market's poi-swinging and blaung-spinning workshops, Carlos Harrison for encouragement and accommodation.

I also would like to thank PCA 4819, one of the two policemen who helped me once in time of trouble. My interest is rather eclectic. But it may be true what Debussy says, perhaps *nothing that has happened is ever useless.* How could I possibly forget to thank our security staffs, in particular Richard and Graham. Because of them UMIST is made safe for all.

Above all I thank God for letting me be and for everything.

No writings can be too long
nor tunes futile in any song
where to someone thanks we say
and in our heart for them we pray.

Yet at times we forget
and amidst our busy tasks let
all the pains in and here reside.
We could have let God us abide.

O, gentle reader, never judge!
We last no longer while we grudge!
Search again, and you shall find so much
there is nothing meaningless as such.

Kit Tiyapan
Manchester, 2003

The above poem was written on 24^{th} September 2003 . By the end of the month I have already given a copy of it to many people, and many more in the form of emails to friends in the UK, the US, Japan and Thailand. This is how I come to realise that I have missed out quite a few of the names of those people who have helped. If I had to rid my writing of all the stuffs it is made of, I would never have even dreamt about ridding it of each and every one of all the thanks I have put therein. I thank Peter Fawcett for having had decided to supervise my projects on languages though in the end I had to do them all by myself and on my own. I thank Graham Davies again for the full two years of financial support, the inspiration, compassion and encouragement received. I thank Mona Baker for having given me an office and access to a unix machine at the translation group. Though I had to return them all to her for my works for Graham, it had been a wonderful experience for me to have done some work for her translational corpus.

I thank Louis Papworth, Lesley McDonagh, Pauline Howarth, Stewart Grace, Helen Cooke for getting office-procedural things done. For chemical engineering helpdesk I thank Jacqie Kitson, Simon Perry and Fran Stanley. I thank Dr's Michael Anthony Allen, Stuart Holmes, Aṃṇac Gịtábarrṇạ, Bronislav Librovich, Leo Lue, Andrew Nowakowski, Jinávudh and Kriangsakdżi Śirisambandha for the encouragement. For the same I thank Zoë Speakman.

Last but not least I thank Ted Roberts again and also Ian Bradley, both for having read the previous versions of this thesis and given some comments all of which are valuable. It is remarkable not only that their names are of exactly the same length but also that both are very kind. As a result of this, the thesis owes much of its good points to them whereas all of its shortcomings are because of Me who is itself imperfect being merely a tiny subset of the Whole.

Notation

$0(n)$. a zero vector of n dimensions.

$0(n,n)$. an $n \times n$ zero-matrix.

$1(n)$. a one vector of n dimensions.

$1(n,n)$. an $n \times n$ one-matrix.

a. surface area of a cell.

a^{ij}. cofactor of a_{ij}, $a^{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det(a_i, b_i)$.

$\aleph$. neighbour.

α. surface area per unit volume.

β. area of face.

c. cell; concentration.

d. length.

D. diffusion coefficient.

δ. thicness of the boundary layer.

ϵ. porosity.

ϵ_0. permittivity of free space, $\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12}$ Fm^{-1}.

η. viscosity of liquid.

e. edge; the charge of an electron, $e = -q$. See q.

$E(x)$. expected number of x

f. form factor, f_c, of a cell, f_f, of a face; face, nf, n-face.

h. Planck's constant, 6.626×10^{-34} J $\cdot$ s.

he. he; he or she.

$\mathrm{I}(n)$. an $n \times n$ identity matrix.

I_r. integers in the interval r *eg*, $I_{[0,\infty)}$.

J. flux.

κ. Kurtosis.

$\mathcal{K}$. Kurtosis.

λ. wavelength. m.

μ. weight of particles in the cake per unit of filter surface; fluid viscosity; magnetic moment.

$\mu(\cdot)$. mean; also μ_g the geometrical mean, μ_h the harmonic mean.

$m^n(\cdot)$. the n^{th}-moment of.

$\mathrm{mad}(\cdot)$. mean absolute deviation.

$\mathrm{med}(\cdot)$. median.

$\mathcal{M}^n(\cdot)$. the n^{th}-moment of.

N. original total number, for example N_c is the total number of cells, and N_v of vertices, created which may include those that are out of bound.

n_x. number of x. n_c, number of cells. n_e, number of edges. n_v, number of vertices.

n_y^x. number of x of a y. n_c^e, number of edges of a cell. n_c^f, number of faces of a cell. n_c^v, number of vertices of a cell.

$n_{y,z}^x$. number of x per y of z. $n_{f,c}^e$, number of edges per face of a cell.

ω. angular velocity.

p. probability; (with subscript) percolation probability. p_c, p_b, p_v, p_e, percolation probability of cells, bonds, vertices, and edges respectively. alternatively, p_c^c, p_c^b, p_c^v, p_c^e,.

$p(\cdot)$. probability density function, probability distribution.

P. pressure.

q. the charge of a proton, 1.6×10^{-19} C; feed rate.

Q. flow rate, $Q = \mathrm{d}V/\mathrm{d}t$.

r. radius. r_v, r_e, r_f, radius to a vertex, edge, or face, respectively.

ρ. density; number density.

r. specific resistance.

§. (s) section or chapter.

s. perimeter, for example s_c the perimeter of cell; cell perimeter.

σ. spin variable.

θ. time.

v. velocity.

vertice. any vertex.

V. volume.

W. fluid velocity.

x. coordinates; coordination number.

$\bar{x}$. mean value of x, *cf* $E(x)$.

z. face perimeter.